<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication apparatus comprising:

a)   a communication unit having different transfer rates and adapted to transmit a predetermined packet to ~~all of~~ a plurality of destination apparatuses using at least one of the different transfer rates; and

b)   a control unit adapted to determine one of the different transfer rates as a maximum transfer rate between the communication apparatus and ~~all of~~ the plurality of destination apparatuses, if a response corresponding ~~after responses~~ to the predetermined packet ~~are~~ <u>is</u> received from ~~all~~ <u>each one</u> of the plurality of destination apparatuses.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit retransmits the predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower than a previous transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit transmits data to the destination apparatuses at the

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maximum transfer rate after determining the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit packetizes data into at least one packet and broadcasts each packet to the destination apparatus.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein an amount of data packetized in a packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

Claims 8 and 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claims 11 and 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires of an ability of the destination apparatus.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the communication apparatus.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID indicating a logical connection relationship between the communication apparatus and the ~~all of the~~ plurality of destination apparatuses.

Claims 16 and 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for a communication apparatus that includes a communication unit having different transfer rates, comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting a predetermined packet to ~~all of~~ a plurality of destination apparatuses using at least one of the different transfer rates; and

b) determining a maximum transfer rate between the communication apparatus and ~~all of~~ the plurality of destination apparatuses, if a response corresponding ~~after responses~~ to the predetermined packet ~~are~~ is received from ~~all~~ each one of the plurality of destination apparatuses.

Claims 19-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, further

comprising a step of retransmitting the predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower than a previous transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, further comprising a step of transmitting data to the destination apparatuses at the maximum transfer rate after determining the maximum transfer rate, wherein the transmitting step includes a step of packetizing data into at least one packet and broadcasting each packet to the destination apparatuses.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the transmitting step includes a step of packetizing data into at least one packet and broadcasting each packet to the destination apparatuses.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein an amount of data packetized in a packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet is transmitted in a communication that conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires about an ability of the

destination apparatuses.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the communication apparatus.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID indicating a logical connection relationship between the communication apparatus and ~~all of~~ the plurality of destination apparatuses.

Claim 38 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication unit has an isochronous transfer mode and an asynchronous transfer mode, and is adapted to transmit the predetermined packet to all of the destinations using the asynchronous transfer mode.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the communication unit has an isochronous transfer mode and an asynchronous transfer mode, and is adapted to transmit the predetermined packet to all of the destinations using the asynchronous transfer mode.

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